



January 2014 Newsletter

Letter from the Chairman:

It is a very pleasant sight to see the greens being so highly utilised. This is being helped by the many club competition matches being played and creates a wonderful atmosphere within the club. My only regret is that many league teams are still not wearing coloured tops. I do hope that members will take up my request and that the greens will soon become a sea of colour making the environment far more attractive to potential as well as existing members.

The beginning of the New Year is seeing many changes, some of which have been planned and others are due to the ever changing situation with members who freely give of their time to support the club.

Many of you may not be aware of an organisation called the Bowls Development Alliance (BDA) which was set up by Sport England to be the single point of funding for the sport of bowls covering indoor, outdoor, crown green and short mat bowling.

Their primary role is based upon recruitment, encouraging increased participation in the sport of bowls. Our club is located in the Wesport area which has been designated as a bowls "hotspot". We have extensively utilised the BDA support at recruitment events outside and inside the club during the last 9 months. We have to date received £1500 in financial support from the BDA with similar amounts expected in future years.

When the BDA was established they recognised that a major recruitment drive was essential for the future of the sport, but that there were widely varying standards of welcome that clubs gave to potential new bowlers coupled with an extremely wide variation in training and assessments of coaching abilities across the country. Many potential bowlers were being disillusioned on their introduction to the sport.

To be able to fulfil their recruitment role the BDA needed potential bowlers to have the best possible start so felt obliged to set up a nationally recognised coaching qualification scheme enabling all new bowlers across the country to receive a consistent introduction to bowls. This has caused some concern to coaches, particularly those who have been through excellent county coaching courses, but it is difficult to see what else the BDA could have done when they found so many instances across the country of both poor welcomes and coaching being given to potential bowlers.

To enable our club to receive BDA funding support the club needs to have a BDA registered coach. I therefore asked John Langford our Head Coach, who has shown great commitment to recruitment and coaching, if he would become a BDA registered coach. Subsequently it became evident that extreme hostility was being shown by the Somerset Bowls Coaching Association (SBCA) towards the BDA coaching scheme. This has resulted in John being no longer entitled to remain a Somerset registered coach. He was not allowed to participate in the Somerset rounds of the National School of Excellence event despite having given many years support to this and many other Somerset coaching events across the county. This rebuff has become the final straw for John who has decided to retire as Head Coach at our club. I find this decision understandable from John's position but cannot comprehend why the SBCA management refuse to allow a coach, who was trained by them, to remain involved as a full member of the Somerset Bowls Coaching Association.

I have tried to facilitate a meeting between the BDA coaching scheme and the SBCA to see whether there could be a sensible agreement between the two coaching organisations. The BDA were very willing to attend but the Somerset Head Coach and the Chairman of the SBCA have very robustly rejected that suggestion making many incorrect statements about the BDA.

I do hope that the SBCA attitude will change soon as we all know bowling needs every coach and new member possible. Common sense says that all coaches should be working together for the future of the sport.

BIBC has no allegiance with any coaching body but encourages all those with a coaching qualification to coach prospective bowlers. Maybe by taking that stand, and with the coaches support within the club, we can lead by example and show by harmony between coaches, of all affiliations, that is the way forward for the sport of bowls.

The role of Head Coach and Head of Juniors has to date been undertaken by one person but there is no reason why that link should continue in the future. The decision has been taken to leave the Head Coach position open for the moment and as part of the bowls development initiative Nigel Green has taken on the role of Head of Junior Bowls Development. Steve Metcalfe has also taken over responsibility for junior recruitment so that we can significantly increase the number of juniors at the club. Previously we have never had anybody looking after the under 25 bowls development and I am pleased to advise that Jason Ovens and Eric Seavill have agreed to take the lead role. Pete Collins will be their support person standing in when they cannot attend meetings etc. Senior bowls development will be headed by Terry Barnes and Martin Tibbs will be his deputy. The appendix to this newsletter shows the members who have initially agreed to form part of each of the three development groups. Future newsletters will advise you of the recommendations from each group and how and when they are to be implemented at the club.

Many changes have already been introduced whilst the final bowls development structure and approach has been evolving. The first round of the adult/junior sets play Australian pairs competition saw two of the three competitions go to deciding tie breaks. All involved felt the competition was extremely beneficial for the club juniors as they were being exposed to a level of competition that they had not previously experienced.

Bristol juniors play a return tournament against Jersey juniors from 14th to 18th February. We hope that the benefits of our juniors increased exposure to competitive bowling will be seen in the tournament result.

Part of bowls development is the Bowls Skills Afternoon for adults being held at the club on Sunday afternoon 2nd February. This is an opportunity for club members to develop some new bowling skills. There are still a few places left and I would encourage members wishing to improve their bowling ability to contact Angela in the office asap if you want to book a place.

At the top end of bowls development all 64 places for the club's Planet Bowls Event on 15th & 16th March have now been taken, with any further applications being placed on a reserve list. A play off for club members who have registered will be organised shortly to determine who, from the club, will go through to the main event.

With regards to other matters the club tour to Torquay was yet again a very successful event enjoyed by over 50 club members. Bookings are already being taken for next year. It is a great opportunity to get to know other club members, play bowls and enjoy excellent hotel facilities and evening entertainment.

Returning to changes required at the club you will see an advert on the notice board advertising the role of Bar Administrator. It is no longer reasonable to expect a volunteer to give up so much of their time to manage the bar and security administration at the club. Members with suitable experience can apply for this position and we will advise in due course whether we have been able to fill this position from within the club or need to advertise it externally.

It seems a long time since we had the financial crisis with all paid staff at the club and no volunteers. We hope that the volunteers will recognise that the Bar Administrator role cannot be sustained as at present and will continue to provide their help. The club relies very heavily on volunteer support without which

we would immediately revert to a financial loss position, which would then necessitate increased charges and stop the planned club improvements.

National Competitions Report Terry Barnes

As the indoor season reaches its climax, it is worth reflecting on our achievements to date:-
Congratulations to Paul Bryant and Peter Birmingham, playing for Somerset in the Liberty Trophy through to the quarter final against Sussex.

In The Nationals, the star of the show, so far, is Reece White who qualified to the last 16 in the Under 25 Years Singles and plays L Chapman (Ilford) at the Basingstoke venue.

Paul Bryant in the area semi-finals of Singles and Triples.

Mike Humphries in the area Over 60s Pairs Final and Triples Semi-Final.

Jason Ovens in area final of 4s.

Terry Barnes Over 60s Singles Area Final.

The club reached the last 32 of The Denny Cup, losing in a gutsy performance to the star studded Desborough.

Sadly there were early exits in the Egham (Mixed), the Over 60s Double Rink and Top Club.

We are comfortably in 2nd place in the Wessex League and look strong favourites to qualify in the play-offs.

In the Somerset Double Rink, we scraped home by 1 shot and play Yeovil in the next round.

A big thanks to Nigel Green, Chris Lowdon and Peter Collins for managing our return to the Somerset League, which has enabled many more bowlers to participate and give our juniors more development opportunities.

For those who are interested, the latest information can be found on the Somerset County Indoor Bowls and EIBA web sites.

Ladies Captain Verna Alford

Ladies, it is with great pleasure that I report a win for the Ladies team. It was a match against the gents with the ladies winning 124 – 104, an excellent result, congratulations.

Please add your name to the availability sheets for the forthcoming matches. If you are new to BIBC, the ladies matches provide a great platform for playing a competitive game in an encouraging and supportive environment and they are fun.

Leagues

As mentioned in the December Newsletter a team was unable to continue in the Monday Afternoon Ladies triples league. New rotas have been issued and we would ask that all the team secretaries and team players in this league check they are following the new team fixture sheet. Your help in this matter would be appreciated to ensure fixtures for this league run efficiently.

A meeting is being arranged shortly with the Thursday Evening Mens Triples League Team Secretaries to discuss changing the start time of this league to 7.0 p.m. This league contains many bowlers who are

working and they are finding it increasingly difficult to get to the club through the evening traffic in order to start by 6.15p.m.

Weekend Friendly Matches Cedric Gunson

Mixed success after the Christmas break with three losses and one win. However it is good to see new members to BIBC participating in these matches. If you are hesitating whether to add your name to an availability sheet pluck up the courage and do so. Whether you win or lose you will find it a rewarding experience.

Torquay Tour 2014 Resumee

Firstly I must thank all those who finally settled on joining in on this our second tour. Dare I say it myself, I was extremely pleased with the way it all went.

Match results are perhaps incidental, but I will list these separately.

WON – 6, LOST – 2.

The Carlton Hotel Staff looked after us all to our satisfaction.

I have booked a trip for next year – Friday Jan 9th – Sunday Jan 11th.

An application form is attached.

It is hoped that we can increase the number of matches to 9 next year so that we all get 3 matches each. In order to do this we will leave the Club on the Friday @ 9.30am which will enable us to play 3 matches on the Friday.

Gala Day 2014

Entries are now invited from bowlers for the 2014 Gala Day. For those new this event, teams of two ladies and two gents play a round robin tournament. Scores are recorded for each team with prizes for the highest scoring three teams. The day is competitive, friendly and fun and open to non BIBC teams and bowlers. More information and entry forms can be found in the foyer and on the web site.

Competition Secretary Tony Down

Thanks to all players in completing their first round competition matches on time. We look forward to more exciting club competition games on the club rinks in the weeks ahead

Coaching & Juniors John Langford

Well done to all those who took part in the School of Excellence on Saturday 18th January, it was rewarding to watch. Congratulations to Bradley Cox whom came Second in the junior section, we all wish him every success in the next stage of the competition.

Reception

Many thanks for your cooperation with the annual membership check that was carried out recently. However - there are still several membership cards awaiting collection at reception!

Please note:

There are additional files attached to this newsletter related to Bowls Development, Gala Day, The Jersey Juniors and Torquay 2015.

For more club information, competitions, league and match results visit BIBC website:

<http://www.bristolindoorbowls.org.uk/>

For national competition information visit: <http://www.eiba.co.uk/>

For photographs visit :<http://www.flickr.com/photos/bristolindoorbowls/>